

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 /062 W

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R 041644Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9059

UNCLAS MADRID 3451

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS SP

SUBJ: TRADE COMPLAINT: SOYBEANS SHIPMENTS AT SHORT WEIGHT

REF: (A) MADRID A-72, MAR 25,1974; (B) MADRID A-84,
APRIL 9,1974; (C) FAS AIRCOM DATED MAY 8,1974

1. REF (C) WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN RESPONSE TO MADRID A-84. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN FORTH-COMING SPECIFICALLY TO MADRID A-72. THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE FAS AIRCOMM IS NOT ADEQUATELY RESPONSIVE TO THE PROBLEM POSED IN THE EMBASSY'S TWO COMMUNICATIONS. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE USG IS NOT LEGALLY A PARTNER TO THESE GRAIN TRANSACTIONS. HOWEVER IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AS PART OF ITS GENERAL TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES DO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSISTING IN RESOLVING SITUATIONS GENERALLY DAMAGING TO TRADE PROMOTION AND SPECIFICALLY THE REPUTATION OF U.S. SHIPPERS.
2. THE EMBASSY NOTED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ON PARTIAL CARGOES, ONE CONSIGNEE'S SHORTAGE MAY BE BALANCED BY A SUBSEQUENT CONSIGNEE'S AVERAGE. TAKING THE TWO REFERENCED COMPLAINTS TOGETHER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SS MAGDALENA DEL MAR SHORT WEIGHTED CONSIGNEES IN BOTH SEVILLE AND LA CORUNA. THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY SUBSEQUENT CONSIGNEE BUT WOULD BE HAPPY TO INVESTIGATE THE OUT-TURN OF ADDITIONAL CONSIGNEES IF IDENTIFIED.
3. EMBASSY AWARE AMS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT REQUIRE A

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WEIGHT CERTIFICATIONS. DOES AN AMS CERTIFICATE INDICATE

MOISTURE CONTENT? IF SO, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPLANATION OF THE INCREASED HUMIDITY VARIATIONS IN KELSA'S CASE (A-72).

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS INFORMATIVE BACKGROUND, INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN PUBLICATIONS, OR EXTRACTS THEREOF, RELATIVE TO TRADING PRACTICES WHICH REQUIRE A BUYER TO INSURE WITH A SURVEYOR FULL DELIVERY OF MERCHANDISE PURCHASED. WHAT TOLERANCE IS PERMITTED THE CARRIER IN OFFLOADING AS COMPARED TO MANIFEST WEIGHT? THE EMBASSY REPEATS ITS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHAT PRACTICAL COURSE MAY BE FOLLOWED BY BUYERS HERE TO RESOLVE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM.

5. GIVEN THE RATES FOR GUARANTEES OF FULL OUTTURN, WHAT IS THE EXPLANATION FOR THE HIGHER RATES FOR SHIPMENTS OUT OF NEW ORLEANS, MYRTLE GROVE, CORPUS CHRISTI, AS COMPARED TO OTHER PORTS?
AXELROD

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